

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A rechargeable battery comprising:
2 a housing having at least two cells; and
3 a cover which closes the housing, the cover comprising a lower part
4 which is coupled to the housing, an upper part which is arranged at a distance from
5 the lower part and closes the lower part forming a seal, and labyrinth-like outlet
6 channels provided between the lower part and the upper part for acid deposition;
7 wherein the lower part is cut through in the area of the upper part
8 adjacent to the outlet channels; and
9 wherein the cells in the cut-through areas are separated from one
10 another in a liquid-tight manner by cell separating wall sections which are adjacent to
11 the upper part, and which are closed by the upper part.
- 1 2. The rechargeable battery of Claim 1 wherein in the cut-through areas,
2 the lower part includes a supporting structure with ribs which form the cell separating
3 wall sections, wherein the cell separating wall sections are aligned with cell
4 separating walls in the housing and are integrally connected to the cell separating
5 walls and to the upper part.
- 1 3. The rechargeable battery of Claim 2 wherein the lower part includes
2 channel walls adjacent to the cut-through areas in order to form the labyrinth-like
3 outlet channels.
- 1 4. The rechargeable battery of Claim 3 wherein the outlet channels
2 include reinforcing webs.
- 1 5. The rechargeable battery of Claim 1 wherein the cells are connected to
2 one another by means of the outlet channels such that they communicate.
- 1 6. The rechargeable battery of Claim 4 wherein the lower part includes at
2 least one web which extends between at least two of the ribs and at least one web
3 which extends between at least one of the ribs and at least one wall of at least one of

4 the outlet channels.

1 7. The rechargeable battery of Claim 6 wherein each of the webs are
2 connected to the upper part.

1 8. The rechargeable battery of Claim 6 wherein the upper part is welded
2 to at least one of (a) at least one of the reinforcing webs included in the outlet
3 channels, (b) at least one of the ribs which form the cell separating wall sections, (c) a
4 wall of an outlet channel; (d) at least one of the webs which extend between the ribs;
5 and (e) at least one of the webs which extend between at least one of the ribs and at
6 least one wall of at least one of the outlet channels.

1 9. The rechargeable battery of Claim 1 wherein at least one of the upper
2 part the lower part has a roughened surface in the area of the outlet channels.

1 10. The rechargeable battery of Claim 1 wherein the outlet channels are
2 each inclined towards an outlet opening provided in the lower part which opens into a
3 cell.

1 11. The rechargeable battery of Claim 1 further comprising a filling and
2 monitoring opening which can be closed by means of a sealing plug provided for each
3 cell in the cover.

1 12. The rechargeable battery of Claim 1 further comprising at least one
2 degassing opening which is provided with ignition protection and is connected to the
3 outlet channels such that they communicate.